

2.16.12

Happy Friday (a day early!) I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend and President's Day off on Monday.

Teacher Spotlight: Amy Melville Middle and Upper School English

7th grade ELA students meet with me seven times each week. It sounds crazy, but it is wonderful because specific time is carved for writing and literature. In order to improve with anything, time needs to be devoted to it. This is the essence of a Writer's Workshop period. Students spend time drafting, revising, sharing, rewriting, and finalizing. The end goal is to have a final product for grading, but this is achieved through effectively spending time in the process.

A typical Writer's Workshop schedule is 15 minutes of a mini-lesson, 35 minutes of writing and/or conferences, and 10 minutes of sharing. Writer's Workshop pieces, beginning with student chosen topics, are drafted and then students confer with three peers and me focusing on each of the six traits before turning in a final copy for grading. This week's focus for the mini-lesson was sentence fluency. Since it was Valentine's Day, students were tasked with creating a six to ten sentence story using conversational hearts. The goal was to craft effective sentence structure.

ENG II students study literature thematically which incorporates all genres into each unit. In conjunction with the unit "The American Dream", students read and dissected F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby noting how the setting, characters, and plot embraced this theme. As a culminating project, students were tasked with recreating a Gatsby party scene. Requirements included decorating the room, bringing in yummy treats, dressing up in 1920's attire and preparing an oral presentation on a chosen topic from the 1920's. To quote the lyrics from a famous roaring 20's song "Ain't We Got Fun?"



Teacher Spotlight: Jackie Bauer Pre-K 3 year olds

Mrs. Bauer's Pre-K 3 class celebrated Valentine's Day this week! The children enjoyed activities centered around the post office and the role of the postal worker. After making valentines for Mom and Dad they walked the "path to success" to mail them in the office on main campus. Imagine their excitement when their valentines were delivered to their home





BA LOVES our Military!!!
 We had a wonderful Valentine's celebration saluting our Military families. Thank you Colonel Van Gysel for being an excellent guest speaker!



Congratulations Latin Honor Society inductees: (from left) Mary Margaret Achurch, Callie Blocker, Jacob Bhoi, Maya Dixon, Kirsten Floyd and Anna Sheppard

Request for volunteers

The annual book fair will be happening the week of February 27 – March 2. We are looking for volunteers to help with checkout (cashiers) at the afternoon time slot which is 3:00-4:00. The work is easy and fun, a great time to help out and visit with other parents. If you have any questions please contact Gina Reilly. Thank you parents!!!



SAVE THE DATE

SHAMROCK
Shakedown

MARCH 17, 2012
 Q ON BAY

LIVE BAND, SILENT AUCTION,
 BBQ, BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR

7:30PM-MIDNIGHT

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